# CONSERVATION COVER

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 327

### CONSERVATION COVER

This practice involves establishing and maintaining a protective cover of perennial vegetation on land retired from agriculture production.

### PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice reduces soil erosion, associated sedimentation, improves water quality, and creates or enhances wildlife habitat.

Conservation cover applies to land retired from agriculture production. Generally, this

.

involves land under contract in a land retirement program but does not exclude land retired for other reasons. The practice does not apply to planting vegetation for forage production or on critical eroding sites being protected with vegetative cover.

In selecting plant species for this practice, it is important to consider long tern land use objectives. If wildlife is a consideration, adapted species are usually available that can serve more than one objective

The following pages contain the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

# CONSERVATION PRACTICE PHYSICAL EFFECT WORKSHEET

NOTE: *recorded in Microsoft word 6.0 - use tabs to change cells/fields*

| STATE | Iowa | FIELD OFFICE | | DATE | 12/5/96 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| **PRACTICE:** 327 Conservation Cover | NOTES: This practice is used when establishing vegetative cover on land retired from agri. production. |
|---|---|
| **RESOURCE: SOIL**<br>**RESOURCE CONCERN: EROSION** | **Help Message: Click on form field for choice lists. Tab key to move around. "N/A" is the default entry.** |

| **RESOURCE INDICATORS** | **PHYSICAL EFFECTS** |
|---|---|
| SHEET AND RILL | significant reduction in sheet and rill erosion |
| WIND | significant reduction in wind erosion |
| EPHEMERAL GULLY | significant reduction in ephemeral gully erosion |
| CLASSIC GULLY | significant reduction in classic gully erosion |
| STREAMBANK | moderate reduction in streambank erosion |
| IRRIGATION INDUCED | N/A |
| SOIL MASS MOVEMENT | insignificant |
| ROADBANK/CONSTRUCTION | N/A |
| OTHER | |
| RESOURCE CONCERN: **SOIL CONDITION** | |
| SOIL TILTH | significant improvement in soil tilth |
| SOIL COMPACTION | significant reduction in soil compaction |
| SOIL CONTAMINATION | |
| • SALTS | N/A |
| • ORGANICS | N/A |
| • FERTILIZERS | N/A |
| • PESTICIDES | N/A |
| • OTHER | |
| DEPOSITION/DAMAGE | |
| • ONSITE | significant reduction/onsite deposition damage |
| • OFFSITE | significant decrease/offsite deposition damage |
| DEPOSITION/SAFETY | |
| • ONSITE | significantly improve onsite safety/deposition |
| • OFFSITE | sign. improve offsite safety hazard/deposition |
| OTHER | |
| RESOURCE: **WATER**<br>RESOURCE CONCERN: **WATER QUANTITY** | |
| SEEPS | slight increase in seepage hazard |
| RUNOFF/FLOODING | sign. decrease in runoff/flooding |
| EXCESS SUBSURFACE WATER | significant reduction in excess subsurface water |
| INADEQUATE OUTLETS | significant improvement in H20 outlet concern |
| WATER MGT. IRRIGATION | |
| • SURFACE | N/A |
| • SPRINKLER | N/A |
| WATER MGT. NON-IRRIGATED | N/A |
| RESTRICTED FLOW CAPACITY | |
| • ONSITE | moderate retardance of surface drainage |
| • OFFSITE | moderate retardance of surface drainage |
| RESTRICTED STORAGE | sign. reduction in sedimentation of H20 storage |
| OTHER | |

The following pages contain the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

| RESOURCE: **WATER**<br>RESOURCE CONCERN**: WATER QUALITY** | |
|---|---|
| **RESOURCE** | **PHYSICAL EFFECTS** |
| GROUNDWATER CONTAMINANTS | |
| • PESTICIDES | sign. reduction GWater contam./pesticides |
| • NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS | sign poten. decrease/GWater contam./nutr,organ. |
| • SALINITY | significant poten. decrease/GWater/pesticides |
| • HEAVY METALS | N/A |
| • PATHOGENS | insignificant |
| • OTHER | |
| SURFACE WATER CONTAMINANTS | |
| • PESTICIDES | sign. reduction in SWater contam./pesticides |
| • NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS | sign. reduction in SWater contam./nutri.,organics |
| • SUSPENDED SEDIMENTS | sign. reduction in SWater contam./susp. sedi. |
| • LOW DESOLVED OXYGEN | sign. reduction in SWater contam./low oxygen |
| • SALINITY | slight reduction in SWater contam./salinity |
| • HEAVY METALS | N/A |
| • WATER TEMPERATURE | slight reduction in SWater contam./H20 temp. |
| • PATHOGENS | N/A |
| AQUATIC HABITAT SUITABILITY | significant improvement in Aqua. Hab. Suit. |
| OTHER | |
| RESOURCE: **AIR**<br>RESOURCE CONCERN: **AIR QUALITY** | |
| AIRBORNE SEDIMENT AND SMOKE PARTICLES | |
| • ONSITE SAFETY | sign. decrease in airborn sed.&smoke part./safety |
| • OFFSITE SAFETY | sign. decrease in airborn sed.&smoke part./safety |
| • ONSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS | sign. decrease in struc. problems/dust and smoke |
| • OFFSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS | sign. decrease in struc. problems/dust and smoke |
| • ONSITE HEALTH | sign. decrease in onsite health prob./dust&smoke |
| • OFFSITE HEALTH | sign. improvement in offlsite health |
| AIRBORNE SEDIMENT CAUSING CONVEYANCE PROBLEMS | sign. decrease in airborn sediment/convey. prob. |
| AIRBORNE CHEMICAL DRIFT | sign. decrease in airborn chem. drift |
| AIRBORNE ODORS | sign. decrease in airborn odors |
| FUNGI, MOLDS, AND POLLEN | sign. decrease in airborn fungi,molds,pollen |
| OTHER | |
| RESOURCE CONCERN: **AIR CONDITION** | |
| AIR TEMPERATURE | slight improvement in air condition/temperature |
| AIR MOVEMENT (windbreak effect) | insignificant |
| HUMIDITY | insignificant |
| OTHER | |

| RESOURCE: **PLANT**<br>RESOURCE CONCERN: **SUITABILITY** | |
|---|---|
| **RESOURCE** | **PHYSICAL EFFECTS** |
| SITE ADAPTATION | N/A |
| PLANT USE | N/A |
| OTHER | |
| RESOURCE CONCERN: **CONDITION** | |
| PRODUCTIVITY | sign. improvement in plant cond./ productivity |
| HEALTH, VIGOR, SURVIVAL | sign. improvement in plant health,vigor, survival |
| OTHER | |
| RESOURCE CONCERN: **MANAGEMENT** | |
| ESTAB., GROWTH, HARVEST | N/A |
| NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT | sign. improvement in plant nutrient management |
| PESTS | sign. improvement in plant pest management |
| THREAT/ENDANGERED PLANTS | N/A |
| OTHER | |
| RESOURCE: **ANIMAL**<br>RESOURCE CONCERN: **HABITAT** | |
| FOOD | sign. improvement in animal habitat/food supply |
| COVER/SHELTER | sign. improvement in animal habitat/cover,shelter |
| WATER (QUANTITY & QUALITY) | insignificant |
| OTHER | |
| RESOURCE CONCERN: **MANAGEMENT** | |
| POPULATION BALANCE | sign. improvement in animal mgt./pop. balance |
| THREAT/ENDANGERED ANIMALS | insignificant |
| HEALTH | sign. improvement in animal mgt./ health |
| OTHER | |
| RESOURCE: **HUMAN**<br>RESOURCE CONCERNS**: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS** | |
| PLAN / COST EFFECTIVENESS | moderately cost effective |
| CLIENT FINANCIAL CONDITION | moderately cost effective |
| MARKETS FOR PRODUCTS | N/A |
| AVAILABLE LABOR | significant decrease in labor requirement |
| AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT | sign. decrease in equip. needed |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

| RESOURCE: **HUMAN**<br>RESOURCE CONCERN: **SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS** | |
|---|---|
| **RESOURCE INDICATORS** | **PHYSICAL EFFECTS** |
| PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY | sign. improvement in public health & safety |
| PRIVATE/PUBLIC VALUES | sign. improvement in private/public values |
| CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS | N/A |
| RISK TOLERANCE | N/A |
| TENURE | insignificant |
| OTHER | |
| RESOURCE CONCERN: **CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS** | |
| ABSENCE/PRESENCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES | sign. improved protection of culture resources |
| SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES | insignificant |
| MITIGATION OF NEGATIVE CULTURAL RES. IMPACTS | insignificant |
| OTHER | |
| | |
| | |
| | |